Missing cash from Corporation Bank

706. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a huge amount of cash went missing under mysterious circumstances from premises of Karol Bagh Branch of Corporation Bank in the first week of September, 2003;

(b) if so, the result of enquiry held in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that many cases of fraud in banks in which employees of the banks were involved have come to notice during last one year; and

(d) if so, the number of such cases in Delhi and the number of bank employees found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Corporation Bank has reported that a cash box containing Rs. 20 lakh was found missing on 2.9.2003 when a remittance to Mahipalpur Branch of their bank was being arranged. The bank has lodged a complaint with Karol Bagh Police Station the same day. The bank has also initiated a departmental enquiry in the matter.

(c) and (d) The public sector banks have reported to Reserve Bank of India (RBI) the involvement of their employees in some cases of frauds. The present system of information on frauds does not permit RBI to collate such information city-wise. However, during the year 2002 Public Sector Banks have convicted 119 employees, awarded major/minor penalties to 1491 employees out of which 424 employees were dismissed/ discharged/removed, for their involvement in fraud cases.

Interest rates on agricultural credit

707. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have advised banks to reduce interest rates on agricultural credit and to ensure that farmers are able to borrow funds at single digit interest rates;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction from banking sector;

(c) whether it is also a fact that many public sector banks failed to comply with RBI guidelines prescribing 18 per cent credit to agricultural sector;